March comes in like a lion

Chica Umino

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#DETCETORP@IRC.RCHIGHWAY.NET

Translator	blazing_ice
Cleaner	Munsu17, genius_advice
Typesetter	Chara
Proofreader	Lenners
QC	kiwiish, Foxfire

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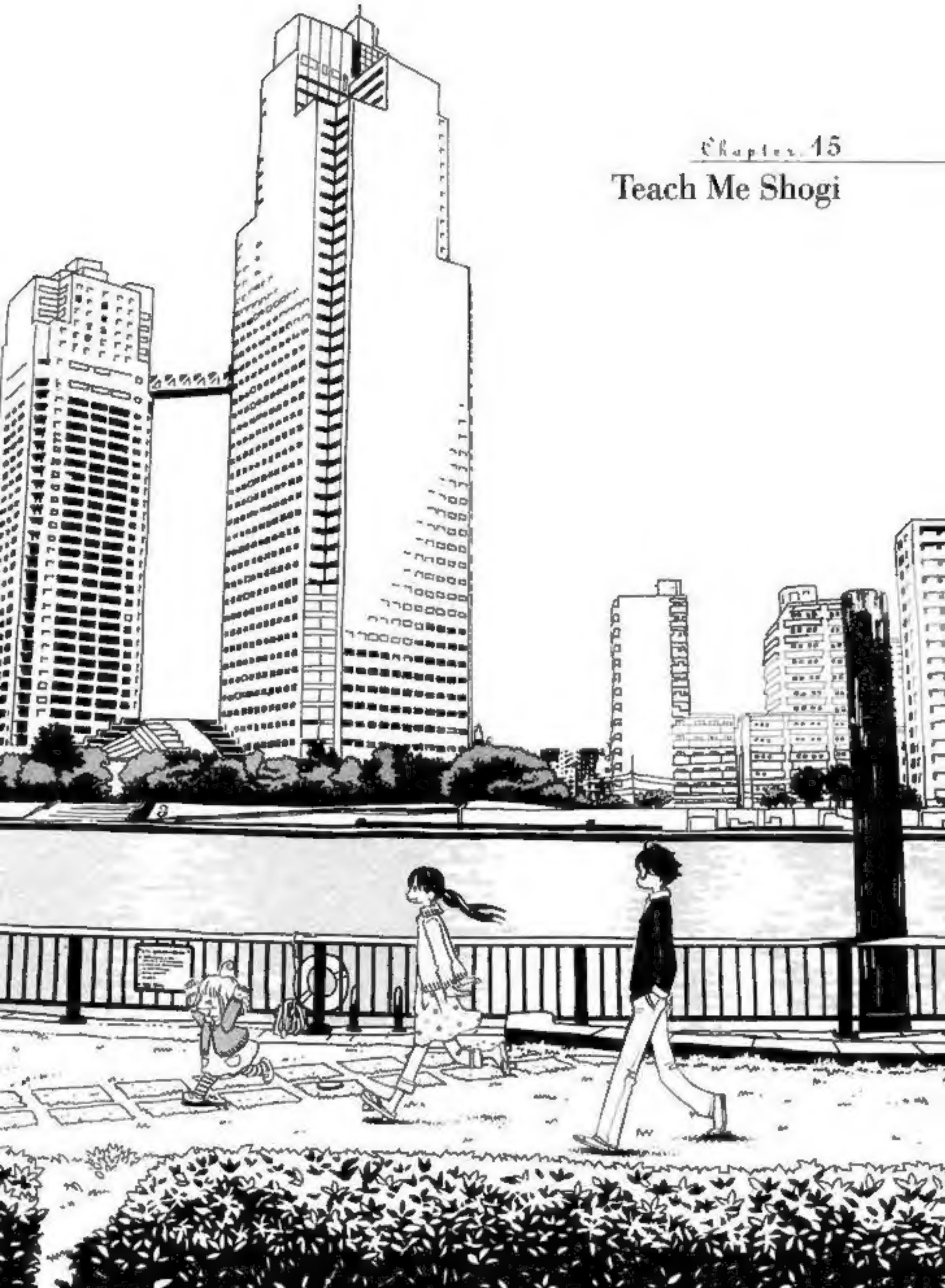
3月のライオン

Chapter 15

Teach Me Shogi



HM...

GOTTA FIGURE OUT WHAT KIND OF BOARD TO BUY FIRST...

I didn't know.

TEACH ME

SHOGI?

That having someone

who's interested in your world

SINCE IT'S GOING TO BE PUT ON THE DINING TABLE

IN THE LIVING ROOM.

A VINYL MAT WOULD PROBABLY BE BETTER THAN WOOD.

was such a happy, stomach-fluttering feeling.

AND THE PIECES...

PLASTIC MIGHT BE GOOD, SINCE IT'S EASY TO HANDLE.

AND MOMO-CHAN OFTEN SPILLS THINGS, LIKE MILK...

Ah!

Momo's milk!!

SFX: BASHA (SPLASH)

SFX: SHIN (SHOOT)

Water of life

SFX: NYA-OO

The characters won't wear away either, so they'll be easy to read.

HMM... WHICH ONE'S BETTER...

AH! I SHOULD BUY AN INSTRUCTION MANUAL TO MAKE IT EASIER TO UNDERSTAND.

FOR A BEGINNER, TANIYAMA-SENSEI AND SENZAKI-SENSEI'S BOOKS WOULD BE BEST.

NI...

NIKAIDOU!?

AW.

THEY'RE SOLD OUT.

WHAT A PITY.

SFX: PAWN (BEANS)

Kya-

Won't you let me help you? If you want... only if you really want me to!! I really want to help you!

SFX: KIRA KIRA (SPARKLE SPARKLE)

...So.

Who are you planning to teach?

SFX: SU...A (SIGH...)

Um... This one...

please...

You care about spreading the love of shogi too!☆

I'm so happy, Kirlyama!

Passion

SFX: GU (CLENCH)

Defeated by his forcefulness, enthusiasm, and various other factors...

YES! THE PLEASURE IS ALL MINE!☆

Please teach me well!

Me too!!

WELL THEN...

dododa

Kya

SFX: DOON (VIOLA)

I HOPE IT'LL BE OKAY.

REMEMBERING EVERYTHING...

NO PROBLEM! ☆

EVEN THOUGH IT LOOKS DIFFICULT,

IT'S ACTUALLY QUITE SIMPLE ONCE YOU BEGIN.

...WITH THAT SAID,

IF HINA-CHAN DOES FEEL THAT IT'S DIFFICULT, IT WOULDN'T BE YOUR FAULT, BUT THE COMPLETE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE ONE TEACHING YOU☆

OK!☆ Please lead the way, Kiriyama-sensei!♡

Eh!? It's my turn after an introduction like that!?

Pressure

SFX: BAAN (SLAM)

SFX: NIKKORI (GRIN)

SFX: KUN KUN (SNIFF SNIFF)

WELL, THEN...

FIRST, SOME SIMPLE EXPLANATIONS...

ON TOP OF THIS 81-SQUARE BOARD, WITH NINE ROWS AND NINE COLUMNS,

ARE EIGHT DIFFERENT TYPES OF PIECES, TOTALLING TO 20 PIECES PER PLAYER.

YOU TAKE PIECES AND HAVE PIECES TAKEN

WHILE TRYING TO CAPTURE THE OPPONENT'S "KING".

SO, EVERY SQUARE HAS A UNIQUE NAME...

THE COLUMNS ARE USUALLY NOTATED WITH NUMBERS AND THE ROWS WITH LOWERCASE LETTERS.

THE COLUMNS ARE CALLED "FILES" AND THE ROWS ARE CALLED "RANKS".

WHITE PLAYER

FILES

9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	RANKS
9a	8a	7a	6a	5a	4a	3a	2a	1a	a
9b	8b	7b	6b	5b	4b	3b	2b	1b	b
9c	8c	7c	6c	5c	4c	3c	2c	1c	c
9d	8d	7d	6d	5d	4d	3d	2d	1d	d
9e	8e	7e	6e	5e	4e	3e	2e	1e	e
9f	8f	7f	6f	5f	4f	3f	2f	1f	f
9g	8g	7g	6g	5g	4g	3g	2g	1g	g
9h	8h	7h	6h	5h	4h	3h	2h	1h	h
9i	8i	7i	6i	5i	4i	3i	2i	1i	i

BLACK PLAYER

EACH OF THE EIGHT PIECES HAVE DIFFERENT CHARACTERISTICS AND DIFFERING RANGES OF MOVEMENT.

THE PERSON WHO GOES FIRST IS "BLACK". THE PERSON WHO FOLLOWS IS "WHITE".

EACH PLAYER TAKES ONE TURN AT A TIME.

A PIECE CANNOT ADVANCE TO A SQUARE THAT'S OCCUPIED BY AN ALLY.

SO,

NEXT IS HOW TO MOVE EACH PIECE...

Um...

JUST A SECOND, KIRIYAMA!

SFX: GUI (JERK)

RIGID!! YOU'RE TOO RIGID, KIRIYAMA!! LOOK AT HINA-KUN!

SHE'S ALREADY GOT THE "YUP... IT IS PRETTY DIFFICULT..." LOOK ON HER FACE!

IF YOU GO ON LIKE THAT, YOU'LL MAKE HER NERVOUS, AND IT'LL NEVER GO INTO HER HEAD!

WOULDN'T YOU BE WASTING YOUR TIME THEN? HER FIRST IMPRESSION MUST BE THAT SHOGI IS EASY TO GRASP...

T...THEN WHAT SHOULD I DO?

The person who goes first is "Black", and the person who follows is "White"...

Umm. umm...

Hey- Hey- You know, Hina-chan, I want to eat yogurt.

SFX: KAKI KAKI (SCRIBBLE SCRIBBLE)

ピカ!

SFX: PIKARIN (SPARKLE)

Introduction to Shogi Picture Book

Let's look at this picture book

All right!

Hina-kun, Momo-kun, I'll do the explanations next!

SFX: PIHYAAAH (SHIMMERING)

ピピピ

HERE! ☆

香 桂 銀 金 王 金 銀 桂 香

歩 歩 歩 歩 歩 歩 歩 歩 歩

角 飛

YOU CAPTURE THE OPPONENT'S "KING",

SHOGI IS LIKE THIS.

USING EIGHT DIFFERENT TYPES OF PIECES☆

So many kitties!!

There's a king too!?

Ahh! kitties!

CAT: HEHHEH

White Cat Team

THE OPPOSITE SIDE IS THE OPPONENT'S TERRITORY (ENEMY CAMP).

YOU PLAY THE GAME ON THIS NINE BY NINE BOARD, WHICH HAS 81 SQUARES.

THE THREE ROWS NEAR YOU IS YOUR TERRITORY (YOUR CAMP).

Black Cat Team

NYA

NYA

INTRODUCING THE CHARACTERISTICS OF EACH KITTY!

NEXT UP IS...

OKAY,

...What is... this feeling?

Nikaidou... You are... amazing...

(*ANSWER ⇔ ALIENATION)

GOOD REPLY!!

YES!!

Please do!!!

okay!!

桂馬
KNIGHT

Hop, jump, kangaroo punch!!

ONLY I CAN JUMP OVER EVERYONE'S HEADS-NYA!☆

桂

CAN HOP AND SPRING BOTH LEFT AND RIGHT☆

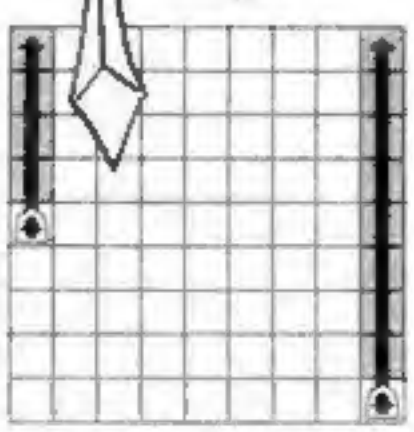
香車
LANCE

I'm... not very useful...

I WILL GO STRAIGHT AHEAD ANYWHERE! I CANNOT TURN BACK-NYA!!

香

MR. SINGLE-MINDED WHO CHARGES "STRAIGHT" AHEAD WHEREVER HE GOES☆



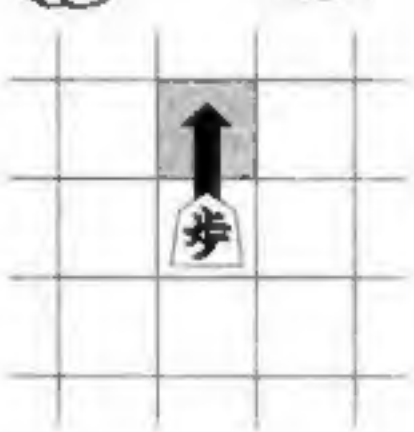
歩兵
PAWN

Come here and feel the power of my furry paw punch-nya!

"I MAY BE THE WEAKEST, BUT I'M AN IMPORTANT PIECE THAT YOU CAN'T WIN WITHOUT-NYA!!"

歩

MR. EAGER BEAVER WHO MOVES ONE STEP AT A TIME-NYA!!

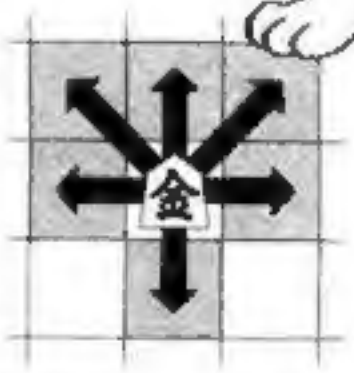


金将
GOLD GENERAL

- LIKES TO BE NEAR "THE KING"☆
- REALLY LIKES TO BE NEAR "THE ENEMY'S KING" AND SUBSEQUENTLY CAPTURE HIM☆

金

THE KING'S LOYAL BODY-GUARD.



A sincere cat inside and out-nya!

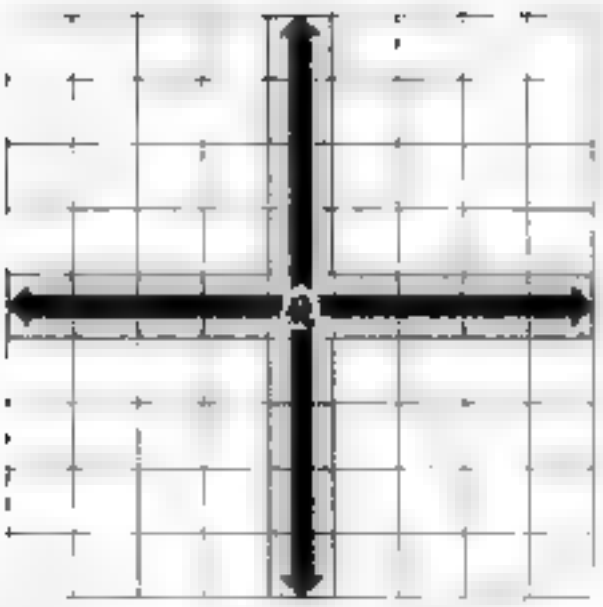
銀将
SILVER GENERAL

- LEADER OF COOL ATTACKS!!
- NIMBLE EXCELLENCE IN BOTH OFFENCE AND DEFENCE-NYA!

銀

MR. COOL GUY WHO'S A BIT CYNICAL.

However... my back and sides are full of openings-nya!



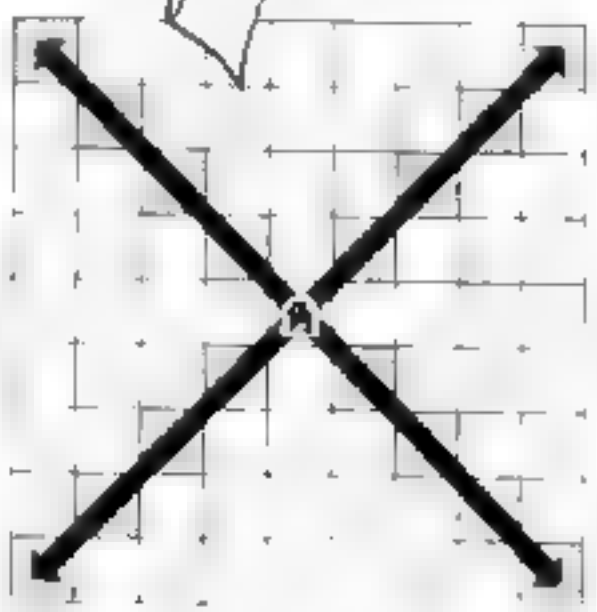
• CAN FLY FREELY HORIZONTALLY AND VERTICALLY-NYA!!
• ALL CATS, WHETHER THEY'RE YOUNG OR OLD, MALE OR FEMALE, LOVE HIM-NYA!!

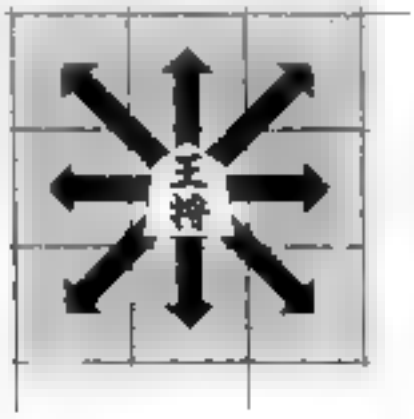
飛車
ROOK

角行
BISHOP

HEAVY-WEIGHT MISSILE THAT CAN REACH EVEN THE FARTHEST DIAGONALS.

• THE SELF-SACRIFICING LONELY GUY☆
• CAN HAVE WEAK SPOTS IN DEFENCE WHILE BUSY ATTACKING, SO BE CAREFUL!





• THE GAME WILL END IF I'M CAPTURED-NYA!
• SO, GIVE ME SOME LOVE-NYA!

王将
KING

SKY RUN CRUISE
ZOOOM
HE'S QUITE THE FIGHTER WHEN IT COMES DOWN TO IT
NOT ONLY THAT,
YUP!☆ IT'S BECAUSE HE'S THE KING!
ONLY THE KING CAN MOVE IN ANY DIRECTION?
Amazing!!

SFX: HUFF HUFF (HUA HAA)

ENEMY TERRITORY

O...ONE MORE STEP, AND THEN I'LL BE IN ENEMY TERRITORY-NYA!

SFX: YORO YORO (WAGGLE WAGGLE)

I DID IT!! I'VE ENTERED ENEMY TERRITORY-NYA!

SFX: PETARI (TAP)

THE AMAZING THING ABOUT THE KITTIES IN THIS SHOGI LAND IS THAT...

YEP! IN ADDI-TION,

I SEEE THE PIECES HAVE SO MANY DIFFERENT PERSONALITIES.

THEY WILL.

WHEN THEY'VE REACHED ENEMY TERRITORY AFTER INCHING FORWARDS

TRANSFORM!!!

Coool!

Right?

SFX: NYAA! (NYAAV)

I've been promoted-nya!!

Congratu-lations-nya!

SFX: NYAA! (NYAAV)

歩 → と (GAINS THE SAME POWERS AS THE GOLD GENERAL!!!)

PAWN PROMOTED PAWN

SFX: CHIRA... (GLANCE...)

WHO ON EARTH WROTE IT?

IS REALLY EASY TO UNDERSTAND...

NIKAIDOU, THAT JERK...

BUT, THIS BOOK...

HAHAHAHA!!

Kya! Kya!

What is this!?

Introduction to Sh
Picture Book

EH?

THERE'S NO PUBLISHER LISTED, NOR IS THERE A BARCODE...

AND THE PRICE ISN'T LISTED...

BUT IT'S AWFULLY EXTRAVA-GANT...??

ACTUALLY, I'VE LOVED DRAWING SINCE I WAS A KID.

WELL...

I THOUGHT THAT IT WOULD BE GREAT IF MY HOBBY COULD HELP SPREAD THE LOVE OF SHOGI.

Moved to tears

I'm so touched!

My drawings are very easy to understand, right...

Bocchama, this was done magnificently.

Yup!

I drew it!

Ni-Ni-Ni-Ni-Ni-Ni... Nikaidou... This... Could it be...?

ぽあっ

You noticed?

I want to draw just like you do!

Amazing, really!? That's cool!!

Eh!?

Magic?

AMAZING

Wah

SFX: PAA (GLOOM)

Simple!?

Casebound
Gold Leaf
UV Processing
Cloth Backing
Ribbon
Endpapers
Endsheets
Tailband
Embossing

S... S-S-S...

Ridiculously extravagant!!

Amazing, amaazing!!

Ahem

I HAD IT PRESENTED AS A GIFT TO RELATIVES AT THE NIKAIDOU FAMILY'S NEW YEAR'S PARTY.

AND SINCE I HAD DRAWN IT, I ASKED THE LETTERPRESS PEOPLE TO PUT IT TOGETHER IN A SIMPLE MANNER.

LIKE THIS, SLOWLY BUT SURELY...

WE'VE DONE WELL.

YUP.

WE'LL SEE A FUTURE EMERGE.

WELL,

FOR THE FIRST DAY, THIS WAS GOOD PROGRESS☆

THE BEST WAY IS TO EASE INTO THE FINER DETAILS GRADUALLY AS THEY PLAY.

AHH-

IT'S GREAT THAT THE TWO OF THEM WERE SO INTER-ESTED!

SFX: KU (CLENCH)

WHERE?

YOUR HOUSE, OF COURSE.

THE TRAIN STATION ISN'T THIS WAY...?

WHERE DO YOU PLAN TO FOLLOW ME UNTIL?

.....

UM...

HUH?

O-OF COURSE? ...NOT...

NOT, RIGHT?

I'M JUST STAYING AT MY BEST FRIEND'S HOUSE. NO RESERVATIONS THERE!

SFX: KIRI (SHARP)

HAHAHA. IT'LL BE FINE.

Yes there are!! Reservations!!

Besides, you and I are not best friends!

I am worrying about it!

Wait, you should be the one worrying about it!

Hahaha☆ Don't worry about it.

Chapter 15 end

NOTES from the translators

Page 80

As in our previous chapters, the original Japanese text on this page refers to the Japanese system of shogi notation, but we have changed to the Western system of shogi notation because the Japanese sytem calls for Chinese numerals. Although the board on page 79 has been left as-is, the shogi board on page 80 has been changed to the Wesetern system because it is significant to this chapter's purpose of teaching the reader shogi.

Page 83

The Silver General is attributed with being cynical because the Japanese writting for "cynical" could also be taken literally to mean "slanted" or "diagonal", which is how the Silver General moves.